

Policy and Regulatory Meeting Minutes

17/8/2023

Attendees

Matt Gillow, Grahame Woods, Chris Aiken, Damien Bove, Jeannie Cameron, Robert Sidebottom, Karen Renshaw, Dan Marchant, Andrej Kuttruf

Apologies

John Dunne, Doug Mutter and Eyad A

Welcome

Matt Gillow welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the minutes

It was agreed that the minutes of the following meeting would be approved, following "BAT" being updated to "PMI" in the section regarding COP 10 letters.

Moved: Robert Sidebottom

Seconded: Jeannie Cameron

COP 10 Update

Grahame informed the Committee that Martin Dockrell who is Tobacco Control Programme Lead for OHID is expected to lead the UK's delegation to the COP, and that Prof Lynne Dawkins from London South Bank University is being considered to attend as an expert advisor.

Grahame highly encouraged everyone to write a letter to their MPs about COP, and congratulated Sid for doing so already.

Jeannie noted that the purpose of template letters is to be personalised, and that you can send a letter via an email and through the post. Jeannie added Martin Dockrell is confirmed as an attendee to COP 10. Prof Dawkins has written directly to the Minister seeking the ability to attend the COP and Jeannie has provided her with a number of briefings.

Jeannie informed the Committee that she is attending as an expert as part of the Taxpayers Alliance in the US, and she will be provide commentary. Chris Snowden will be there as well. Commentary will be fed back through the various networks.

New Zealand is adding Hayden McRobbie on its delegation, and that there are a few countries that are now joining up.

Scottish Update

Grahame informed the Committee that we have sent a letter to Lorna Slater raising concerns about the drafting of the report, and that the Scottish government is expected to release their response to the review in the autumn. He also said that we JBP has written a letter for local vaping retailers to send to their local MPs, and generated a survey for Scottish vapers to complete.

Labour Engagement

JBP has started to action the UKVIA Labour strategy and is putting a plan of engagement together for the Labour Party conference. It was agreed that Matt would consult this, and the wider engagement, plan with the policy and regulatory committee in the coming weeks.

UKVIA Forum

The UKVIA Forum is progressing well and members are encouraged to get their tickets early while they can benefit from the early bird price. Mary Glendon, along with a range of other speakers, are confirmed to speak at this conference.

Parliamentary Update

Matt informed the Committee that a 10-minute rule bill has been brought forward by the Labour MP Helen Hays that will discuss the packaging of e-cigarettes. While we do not expect this bill to progress any further than first reading, it will be a good opportunity for us to see what names come out of the woodwork as co-signatories.

Grahame provided an update on how APPG rules are changing and how the vaping APPG will likely transition into a vaping research group. While this will change the group's name it will provide many additional opportunities to engage with Parliamentarians.

It is currently Government health week and there are yet to be any policies announced on smoking or vaping. JBP is monitoring this situation closely and will seek to maximise any potential opportunities.

General Business

Sid provided an update on the MHRA meeting and noted that the MHRA was pressed on response times. Internally they intend to respond to applications within six to eight weeks, but they do have the ability to take longer to decide. They have however grown their staff team by two to help address the backlog.

Andrej asked about whether a call line to report illicit vape traders would be created. Matt noted that this is a work in progress and it will likely take the form of an online platform.

- *Note to the minutes: following this meeting it has been confirmed that JBP is progressing this and is currently talking to journalists about how we can maximise the public relations benefits of this activity.*

The meeting closed at 10:31am